

DBC-14911



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois

April 24, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

✓ (FATHER) DOMINIC CORIC ^{HUN 2N} ex USA on: Croatia
AUSA 220, Chicago

On April 11, 1968, Father Dominic Coric, Curate, St. Jerome's Church, 2823 South Princeton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, advised that in October of 1967 he had made a trip to Yugoslavia in order to visit friends and relatives in Croatia. This was his first trip to Croatia since he escaped from Yugoslavia in 1945. Father Coric, upon ordination to the priesthood, served as a chaplain in an Ustasha Detachment up until the end of the war in 1945. When the communists usurped control of the Yugoslav Government in 1945, Father Coric was forced to leave his native land and he escaped across the mountains to Trieste, Italy. Father Coric fled to Rome, where he resided for approximately eight years. During this time he lived in company with Father Krunoslav Draganovic, who was allegedly kidnaped by the Yugoslav Intelligence Agency while he was visiting friends in Trieste, Italy. Father Coric arrived in the United States in 1953, at which time he was assigned to the Croatian Seminary located on South Drexel Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. From 1958 to 1961 Father Coric served as a curate in a Croatian parish in the St. Louis area, but in 1961 he was transferred back to Chicago, whereby he was assigned to St. Jerome's.

On October 28, 1967, Father Coric appeared at the American Consulate in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and advised consulate officials that he was an American citizen visiting relatives in the Zagreb area. At this time Father Coric was residing at the Croatian Franciscan Monastery in Zagreb.

On October 30, 1967, officials from UDBa (Yugoslav Intelligence Agency) appeared at the monastery and requested to speak with him. Upon meeting these individuals, Father Coric was reluctantly escorted to the UDBa Headquarters

CONFIDENTIAL

Group 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CS COPY

96-5-11

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

14911

DRCI

FATHER DOMINIC CORICCONFIDENTIAL

in Zagreb, where he was questioned on October 30, 1967, and was forced to remain there overnight, whereupon this interrogation continued on October 31, 1967. At noontime on October 31, 1967, after having been thoroughly quizzed concerning Croatian matters in the United States and his activities between 1945 and 1953, before he migrated to the United States, Father Coric was allowed to return to the Franciscan Monastery at Zagreb. Father Coric further added that the UDBa officials were particularly interested in (Father) Ljubo Cuvalo, publisher of "Danica" ("The Morning Star"), an anti-communist newspaper published by the Croatian Franciscan Monastery, 4851 South Drexel, Chicago, Illinois. Father Cuvalo is also the publisher of various other anti-communist publications printed in the Croatian language. He was also interrogated concerning his relationship with one Branko Jelic, who is an active Croatian anti-communist and former member of the Croatian Ustasha (Croatian pro-German fascists during World War II) and who presently resides in West Berlin. These officials also desired information concerning anti-communist Croatian groups in Germany, France, Spain, and Australia, of which Father Coric might have knowledge. Father Coric also advised that they were very much interested in his association with and knowledge of (Father) Krunoslav Draganovic, with whom he resided and worked in Rome for approximately eight years. Father Coric further advised that these officials advised him to warn Father Ljubo Cuvalo to tone down his anti-communist propaganda and lies in his various American publications.

Father Coric further added that he gave those individuals as little information as possible and he did not cooperate with them in any way. Upon being returned to the Croatian Franciscan Monastery in Zagreb, he was never again contacted by these individuals during his trip to Yugoslavia.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2* -

76 - 5 - 11